

WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!



OCT. 20, 2011 Vol. 53, No. 41 50¢

Socialist gathering declares: Occupy Wall St. opens new era of struggle

By Betsey Piette
New York

Under a banner that outlined the theme of the 2011 Workers World Party national conference, "Expand Occupy Wall Street, Shut Down Capitalism and Fight for Socialism," activists of all ages and nationalities gathered at the Paul Robeson Auditorium in the South Bronx Oct. 8 and 9. They discussed the significance of the rapidly expanding Occupy Wall Street movement and the role workers and oppressed must play to bring a genuine anti-capitalist direction to this struggle.

The conference also included tributes to Che Guevara on the 44th anniversary of his death; to Troy Davis, who would have turned 43 years old Oct. 9; and to Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy, born 100 years ago in 1911. The vast majority of the plenary speakers were WWP members from various branches representing important labor, community and anti-imperialist mass struggles.

Conference participants like members of Steelworkers Local 8751, representing Boston school bus drivers, were in the house. So were postal workers and retirees from several cities, who brought their message of fighting back against the pending massive elimination of 200,000 jobs.

The audience included members of the Providence, R.I., Movement for a Peoples Assembly; youth, immigrant and labor organizers from North Carolina; community activists from the South Bronx; members of the Detroit Moratorium Now! coalition active in fighting foreclosures; and participants from the heroic occupations in Madison, Wis., whose struggle against union busting in February galvanized the country. Cultural presentations were performed by Myia X and Redd Welsh.

Participants from Occupy Wall Street as well as occupations springing up in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Tucson and Los Angeles all came to share their experiences. The leadership role of young activists was visible throughout the conference.

Rocio Silverio, with the South Bronx Community Labor Alliance, welcomed the gathering to her neighborhood. She noted that the South Bronx is the most impoverished urban area in the U.S., with the highest jobless rate in New York state. Silverio reported that 40 percent of its residents are homeless and 60 percent depend on food stamps. "As a community we have been able to survive what they've thrown at us, but we need to reach out. We thank Workers World for bringing the message of workers' power to the Bronx."

The first plenary, building on the central theme of the conference, was chaired by young Durham, N.C., member Cathey Stanley, who reported that as of that morning, occupations were happening in more than 420 cities. A single mother, Stanley discussed the difficulty of secur-

ing state-subsidized child care for her son with more than 600 children already on the waiting list: "The lack of support for child care shows that capitalism doesn't work for children, and it definitely does not work for women."

Speakers on this panel included Larry Hales, a leader of New Yorkers Against the Budget Cuts. Hales credited the movements in northern Africa and across Europe for inspiring the movement at home, noting that the global capitalist crisis that fueled these uprisings is intractable. "The system can't rehire the 8 million unemployed nor can it absorb the hundreds of thousands of new workers entering the workforce every day. Conditions are going to get worse," Hales said.

Teresa Gutierrez, co-coordinator of the May 1st Coalition for Workers and Immigrant Rights, stressed the need for unity between Occupy Wall Street and the immigrant rights movement, whose heroic mass marches in 2006 opened the way for the resurgence of working-class struggle in the U.S. "Occupy Wall Street has to not only welcome oppressed peoples," Gutierrez stated. "They need to push forward their leadership."

Peoples Assembly to counter G-20

Larry Holmes, a national organizer with the Bail Out the People Movement, remarked that watching the developments of Occupy Wall Street over the last three weeks is like witnessing elements of a fledgling revolution. "Imagine workers watching this who never thought about occupying their workplaces. Occupy Wall Street has opened space for that. While it started with white youth, it is getting more multinational and impacting the class struggle," Holmes stated.

Continued on page 5

BULLETIN: Supreme Court ruling on MUMIA ABU-JAMAL



Excerpts taken from an Oct. 11 NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc. press release.

Today the United States Supreme Court rejected a request from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to overturn the most recent federal appeals court decision declaring Mumia Abu-Jamal's death sentence unconstitutional. The Court's decision brings to an end nearly thirty years of litigation over the fairness of the sentencing hearing that resulted in Mr. Abu-Jamal's being condemned to death. Mr. Abu-Jamal will be automatically sentenced to life in prison with-

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Left, the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth with Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Dr. Martin Luther King in Birmingham, Ala., in May 1963.

REV. FRED SHUTTLESWORTH

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WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL

Worker World Party Conference, above.

Occupy Wall Street protest, below.



OWS AROUND THE U.S. LABOR GOES TO WALL STREET

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Death of a billionaire

Why they praise Steve Jobs

By Shelley Ettinger

When you’re worth \$8.3 billion, it’s only natural that you get endless, gushing tributes in every capitalist media outlet when you die. There is no higher accomplishment in this society than amassing riches. Naturally, then, when a very rich person dies, he’s lavished with over-the-top obits.

Here’s the thing, though. I find it a telling reflection of the dead rich guy’s media savvy, and of the overwhelming, ubiquitous grip of bourgeois consciousness, that ordinary people are also getting sucked along into the lachrymosity. Bouquets of flowers laid in tribute at Apple stores all over the globe. Heartfelt tributes posted on media websites and blogs, mournful tweets flowing through cyberspace and so on. And why? What did Steve Jobs contribute to society that so many people should be convinced that his death is a loss to all of us?

Maybe the extreme few who can afford his company’s products feel that his keen marketing sense and his sharp taste in mechanical design improved their lives. Others — many others upon whose relationship to computer and communications technology the Mac and Apple products have had an impact, and that’s most of us by now, regardless of which company’s hardware and software we use — might likewise believe we owe him a debt of gratitude.

All such ideas are mistaken. All are expressions of that bourgeois consciousness from which it is so hard to break free.

Steve Jobs was no more a hero than was Henry Ford, another industrialist who became rich off the labor of others and is nevertheless to this day presented, to school-children and aspiring entrepreneurs alike, as one of the Great Men of U.S. history. Ford was Great at exploiting workers. So was Jobs. That is axiomatic: You do not become a billionaire any other way. He made his profits off the stolen value created by the people who manufactured his products. Most of them, at this point, are unbelievably low-paid and super-exploited workers laboring in overseas factories for dozens of other companies that are subcontracted to create the various component parts that go into making an iPhone or a Mac, an iPod or iPad.

Where ‘Great Ideas’ really arise

There’s more to the story than this, though, more than Jobs’ extraordinary facility for reaping profits off the labor of other people. Not only were his billions stolen money. His Great Ideas were, at worst, stolen; check out how he “invented” the mouse. But even when not directly ripped off from the actual innovators, anything and everything he came up with was not the result of some private indi-

vidual aha moment, but rather arose from collaboration with many other people.

The New York Times obituary more or less says this when it points out that his skill wasn’t technical or scientific or even mechanical or decorative. Rather, he was good at recognizing other people’s good ideas, and by recognizing is meant understanding what would make money and then using others to do the work necessary to get the profits rolling. So, O.K., give him credit for what he deserves to be remembered for: Steve Jobs was a brilliant marketer, smartest of all at self-promotion, as today’s outpouring attests.

What he did not do was invent anything, or even come up with a new idea. Rather, he built upon others’ inventions and facilitated others’ ideas. Then others — tens of thousands of others — created the products to which those inventions and ideas led. And others, millions, bought the products, from the sales of which Jobs became a billionaire, while the actual creators, the workers who made the products, got just enough to stay alive another day.

Even if it could be shown that Jobs did actually do something — design a particularly elegant piece of circuitry, say — the fact remains that he did not do it himself. Some of capitalism’s greatest lies are promulgated regarding science and technology, where we are told that the Great Man and the Lightbulb Over the Head are responsible for every advance. It just ain’t so. Here’s a succinct rejoinder from Clifford D. Conner, author of “A People’s History of Science.”

“We all know the history of science that we learned from grade school textbooks: How Galileo used his telescope to show that the earth was not the center of the universe; how Newton divined gravity from the falling apple; how Einstein unlocked the mysteries of time and space with a simple equation. This history is made up of long periods of ignorance and confusion, punctuated once an age by a brilliant thinker who puts it all together. These few tower over the ordinary mass of people, and in the traditional account, it is to them that we owe science in its entirety.

“This belief is wrong. ‘A People’s History of Science’ shows how ordinary people participate in creating science and have done so throughout history. It documents how the development of science has affected ordinary people, and how ordinary people perceived that development. It would be wrong to claim that the formulation of quantum theory or the structure of DNA can be credited directly to artisans or peasants, but if modern science is likened to a skyscraper, then those twentieth-century triumphs are the sophisticated filigrees at its pinnacle that are supported by the massive foundation created by the rest of us.” □

WW COMMENTARY

Like any billionaire, he made his profits from the stolen labor of the people who built his products

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Occupations take root across the country, attract growing support

By Leilani Dowell

Following the lead of Occupy Wall Street, occupations are growing in size and number across the country, with actions taking place in hundreds of cities. The following reports from Workers World correspondents give a flavor for some of those demonstrations.

Boston: More than 100 arrested

At 2:30 a.m. on Oct. 11, hundreds of state, transit, city and riot police tore into the second campsite of Occupy Boston, dragging and handcuffing participants and arresting 100 of them. The cops also stole tents and removed them from the site.

The previous day an estimated 10,000 union members, students, veterans, families, women and men of all ages had marched from the Boston Common to Dewey Square, and then to the North Washington Bridge, to demand economic justice. Police stopped these protesters at the bridge, and one person was arrested. Later the demonstrators joined Occupy Boston, which expanded to fill the second site.

At the General Assembly the evening before the arrests, Pat Scanlon of the Smedley Butler Brigade of Vets for Peace received a big ovation after offering words of encouragement and a brief history of the Vietnam War movement. The Brigade has been critically supportive of Occupy Boston.

The crowd was also responsive to a solidarity message from Workers World Party, which saluted participants for the struggles against racism, war and anti-LGBTQ bigotry being waged through their presence. The many hundreds of youth, including an increased number of youth of color, are receptive to anti-capitalist ideas and proposals for militant action aimed at abolishing capitalism.

Mayor Tom Menino told reporters that he would remove the original campsite at Dewey Square “very shortly.” (WBUR, Oct. 11)

Atlanta: Troy Davis Park

More than 700 people launched Occupy Atlanta on Oct. 7 in Woodruff Park — which they renamed Troy Davis Park. On Oct. 10, word came down that the police intended to clear the park, which was surrounded by dozens of squad cars, police wagons and mounted police, that night at 11 p.m. At least 150 people prepared to be arrested, while many other supporters joined them around the park. However, the state forces pulled back, and as of 1 p.m. on Oct. 11, all the tents are still up, and the occupation goes on.

Some of the many participants in Occupy Atlanta include Black and Latino/a students from Emory University, a Georgia State University student whose first demonstration was the Sept. 16 march for Troy Davis, and an Afghanistan war vet.

Among other Occupy Atlanta activities, a march to Bank of America is scheduled for Oct. 11.

Detroit: date set for occupation

About 1,000 people attended a planning meeting Oct. 10 to plan for Occupy Detroit, which is now scheduled to begin on Oct. 14. The event had to move from the Spirit of Hope Church to an adjacent playground after the church was filled to capacity.

On Oct. 14, protesters will gather at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center at 4 p.m. for a march through the financial district and ending at Grand Circus Park, site of the occupation.

Abayomi Azikiwe of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice summed up the motivations of Occupy Detroit as he opened the meeting. “Are we tired of unemployment? Are we tired of being robbed by banks? Are we tired of being forced out of our homes? Are we ready to draw the line?” Azikiwe asked. The crowd responded to each question, “Yes!” (The South End, Oct. 11)

Philadelphia: occupation grows

An increasing number of people of color, including Palestinians and Latinos/as, are now joining Occupy Philly and actively playing a stronger role. A powerful intervention came when Pam Africa took the mike at a General Assembly meeting on Oct. 10, challenging the assembly to get behind a campaign to deal with the crisis caused by the lack of jobs.

At the International Action Center table, a Jobs Campaign meeting turned into a street rally on Oct. 10 when Africa and Ron Whyte, another Unemployment Campaign organizer, began a people’s speak-out on unemployment and racism.

prospect of Mr. Abu-Jamal facing an execution that was produced by an unfair and unreliable penalty phase has been eliminated,” said John Payton, Director-Counsel of LDF. “Like all Americans, Mr. Abu-Jamal was entitled to a proper proceeding that takes into account the many substantial reasons why death was an inappropriate sentence.” Professor Ritter stated, “Our system should never condone an execution that stems from a trial in which the jury was improperly instructed on the law.”

Mr. Abu-Jamal’s case will now return to the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas for final sentencing. □

Philadelphia.

WWW PHOTO:
JOE PIETTE

Rochester, below.

PHOTO: JOSIE CLANCY



For the next hour, more than 50 people gathered for a spirited impromptu protest, giving their views and life stories. Dozens of people committed to take fliers to their communities and schools for an Oct. 17 rally for jobs and a march to the U.S. Dept. of Education local office to demand student loan debt forgiveness.

On the way back from an Oct. 10 march to City Hall, workers began chanting a new slogan on their own — “The working class is under attack, stand up, fight back!” — loudly and strongly. Socialism is also being discussed more at Occupy Philly.

Rochester, N.Y.

The Occupy Rochester group has been conducting support activities for the Occupy Wall Street Movement by having a demonstration every day from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester. Turnout has ranged from a dozen to over 90. At the weekly planning meeting on Oct. 9, a proposal for a campaign for Jobs and Forgiveness of Student Debt was raised. Also raised was a proposal to occupy a bank owned vacant property with the idea of turning it over to the homeless.

The Lead Field Organizer for the AFL-CIO announced that the union federation supports the Occupy Wall Street movement, and the Occupy Rochester group will march on Oct. 11 from the Liberty Pole to the County Office building to join county workers who are rallying there.

Dianne Mathiowetz, Betsey Piette, Joe Piette, Gerry Scoppettuolo and Lydia Bayoneta contributed to this report.

‘Take it from the rich’ Michigan protests hit welfare cuts



WWW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

‘Resurrection march’ Oct. 6 in Detroit says NO to welfare cutoffs.

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

On Oct. 4, a federal judge in Detroit ordered the state of Michigan to stop implementing the elimination of welfare to an estimated 40,000 people receiving cash assistance. The Center for Civil Justice in Saginaw, Mich., had filed a lawsuit seeking a restraining order based on violations of due process and improper notification for those about to be cut off. Families were given less than three weeks’ notice that their benefits were ceasing. Judge Paul Borman agreed with the suit and ordered the Department of Human Services to properly notify recipients by mail according to federal rules.

The cutoff of cash assistance went into effect Oct. 1 and will have a devastating impact on 11,162 families or about 40,000

people, two-thirds of whom are children or youth. (Detroit Free Press, Oct. 5) Welfare benefits in the state are now limited to 48 months during a person’s lifetime, a year less than allowed by federal law, because of a bill signed by former Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Michigan’s official unemployment rate remained unchanged in September at 11.2 percent.

Protesters continue their presence on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. outside the State of Michigan building in Detroit at weekly “resurrection marches” called by the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. On Oct. 6, hundreds massed to demand a permanent halt to the cuts, chanting, “Tax the rich, not the poor!” and “No justice, no peace!” A short rally included speakers the Rev. Jesse Jackson Jr., the Rev. Ed Rowe of Central United Methodist Church and Maureen Taylor of MWRO. □

BULLETIN: Supreme Court ruling on Mumia Abu-Jamal

Continued from page 1

out the possibility of parole unless the District Attorney elects to seek another death sentence from a new jury.

The NAACP LDF and Professor Judith Ritter represent Mr. Abu-Jamal in the appeal of his conviction and death sentence for the 1981 murder of a police officer in Philadelphia. The Supreme Court’s decision marks the fourth time that the federal courts have found that Mr. Abu-Jamal’s sentencing jury was misled about the constitutionally mandated process for considering evidence supporting a life sentence.

“At long last, the profoundly troubling

Occupy Wall Street leaps to new level



Above and right, Oct. 5 New York.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

By Tony Murphy
New York

Oct. 6 — The police have once again proved to their bosses at JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs that they can be relied upon to bust heads to protect Wall Street.

A police riot last night, in which protesters against Wall Street were clubbed and arrested, must be added to the long list of reasons the New York Police Department should be shut down. These include spying on the Muslim community and occupying Black and Latino/a communities.

Just three nights ago, New York cops shot and killed a homeless person outside the New Providence Residence, a substance abuse shelter for women. The reason? She had a knife, they said.

Once again the ongoing police attacks on righteous protests against corporate greed and unemployment must be condemned.

It would be a mistake for the latest police attack to obscure the monumental tipping point solidified yesterday by the Occupy Wall Street movement. It decisively expanded its power and influence by marching with thousands of workers from major unions.

Students from at least a hundred college campuses around the country walked out of class to protest continuing tuition hikes, even as tens of thousands of people were marching in the streets of New York against austerity and Wall Street criminals.

This moment might best be described by the famous statement attributed to V. I. Lenin, leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution: “There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.”

A dialectical turning point

This quote is not just a clever description that happens to fit the moment. It is a perfect Marxist explanation of the unfolding occupy movement. It is an explanation of the way true change happens, according to the laws of dialectics.

Dialectics is an academic-sounding word meaning the science of change — or more accurately, the science of development.

One of the laws of dialectics is that everything is in a constant state of change, even if it looks like it’s standing still. The change becomes visible when a qualitative point is reached.

This is true of any inanimate object — even if it’s just sitting there, it may be rusting or decomposing — and it’s also true of society.

In other words, while it has seemed for a long time that things were getting worse and worse under capitalism with no relief in sight, in actuality things were bubbling under the surface until they erupted into the political landscape we see now.

Just this Sept. 17, Occupy Wall Street was an encampment of maybe a hundred people sleeping in New York’s Zucotti Square, with no formal demands and vague leadership.

Today the movement has spread like wildfire, with occupations or Wall Street-focused protests in more than 160 U.S. cities. Chicago’s occupation has just



PHOTO: MARK DUNLEA

completed its second week. Thousands are expected to march today in Los Angeles. Occupy Madison, Wis., home of the gigantic pro-union demonstrations this spring, begins today.

Probably the most dynamic feature of the occupy movement has been its rapid embrace by so many sectors of society. Students, unions, community groups, people of color, LGBTQ people, the unemployed — thousands have been activated to protest.

Yesterday, members in New York City of 15 of the country’s largest unions — as well as students who walked out of classes at New York University, the City University system, Columbia University and the New School — joined the huge “March in Solidarity with Occupy Wall Street.”

Earlier this week, the Transport Workers Union took a bold stand, filing suit against the NYPD’s commandeering of city buses to ferry masses of arrested protesters. This police practice includes ordering passengers off buses — as if public transportation hasn’t been cut back enough.

In Boston yesterday, Northeastern University students blocked Atlantic Avenue and held a standoff with police. Three buses carrying several hundred nurses from the Massachusetts Nurses Association joined the protest.

Hundreds of State University students in many upstate New York campuses walked out of class.

The last four years’ acceleration of layoffs, foreclosures and looting of pensions came after decades of layoffs, cutbacks, the growth of the prison-industrial complex and the destruction of the socialist camp. This period of reaction could not go on indefinitely.

It was literally only a matter of time before the people rose up again. While it might be tempting to compare this movement with that for civil rights in the 1950s, which inspired the student, Black, gay and women’s liberation uprisings of the late 1960s and early 1970s — the last time this country saw a sustained movement that challenged the status quo — the crucial difference this time is the unemployment crisis.

On Sept. 29 a CEO association called Business Roundtable released the results of a survey of 140 executives. Of those surveyed, the number planning job cuts had more than doubled since the second quarter.

The capitalist crisis has created a movement for which the capitalists have no solution. The eruption of protest nevertheless demands a solution. And this has put the question of socialist revolution squarely on the table. □

On the Picket Line

By Sue Davis

Community stands with ILWU L. 21

On Sept. 29, about 1,000 labor supporters and community members in Longview, Wash., showed support for International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21. The union has been battling for its life ever since U.S.-based multinational EGT announced it would defy the union’s agreement with the Port of Longview and not hire ILWU members to work its new state-of-the-art grain export terminal there. Meanwhile EGT has received huge support from the state of Washington in the form of tax incentives, a favorable lease agreement and an injunction to stop the workers from staging civil disobedience, as they did on Sept. 8 and in subsequent actions. More than 100 protesters have been arrested as they try to keep trains from delivering grain to the facility. The union struck back on Sept. 22 by filing a lawsuit against the city of Longview and the sheriff of Cowlitz County for harassment and excessive force.

Jeff Johnson, president of the Washington State Labor Council, noted, “With unemployment at 11.3 percent in Cowlitz County and no employment relief in sight, community members expressed their frustration and anger over EGT’s arrogance and continuing disrespect of the community.” (www.thestand.org, Oct. 3) Johnson cited EGT’s hiring of the Special Response Corporation, a security service staffed by ex-military and law enforcement thugs that specializes in strikebreaking, as the latest example of the EGT’s disrespect.

On Sept. 30, a federal judge slapped a contempt citation and a \$250,000 fine on Local 21 for alleged costs in protecting EGT’s private property. The ILWU has vowed to appeal the ruling. (www.msnbc.com, Sept. 30) To help ILWU 21 fight on, Johnson requests that unions, labor councils and organizations pass resolutions supporting the union’s right to fight for jobs by sending contributions to IWLU Local 21, 617 14th Ave., Longview, WA 98632.

Tacoma, Wash., teachers strike for 10 days

While some unions have been wary of striking during this economic crisis, others have been emboldened. Like the nearly 1,700 teachers in the Tacoma Education Association, who went on strike Sept. 13 to protest the school district’s demand for “more flexibility” in transfers and reassignments. The final three-year agreement set up a joint committee to develop a new process for that. Though the teachers agreed to a two-year freeze on salaries, they maintained current class-size and caseload limits. After the agreement was reached, the Tacoma School Board tried to retaliate by cutting paychecks. But the TSB was rebuked because the contract stipulates that teachers are paid in 24 equal checks over the calendar year. Lesson learned: Even in hard times, strikes can be won. (www.weteachtacoma.org, Sept. 29)

Demanding justice for immigrants with H-2B visas

The AFL-CIO, the Southern Poverty Law Center and Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (the first transnational workers’ rights law center based in Mexico) filed a joint complaint Sept. 19 against the United States, citing provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement. The complaint accused two companies of consistently paying immigrant workers with H-2B visas in 2007 and 2008 less than the federal minimum hourly wage and denying them overtime and reimbursement for travel, visa and recruitment costs. In fact, the workers earned on average about \$20 per day for at least 12 hours work — which comes to a criminally low \$1.61 per hour! The complaint was filed after all legal remedies using the U.S. court system failed to bring justice for the workers. (AFL-CIO Now Blog, Sept. 19)

Study shows U.S. does not protect workers’ rights

Political economist Kenneth Thomas studied data compiled by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and found that in 21 categories U.S. workers have fewer protections than workers in all other industrialized countries, including Russia, India and China. Thomas concludes that “not only is the United States in last place, it isn’t even close.” Among the labor conditions assessed were such things as being fired unfairly, being cheated out of severance pay, getting the least notice of mass layoffs, and being stuck in temporary jobs. (AFL-CIO Now Blog, Sept. 15) □

How can lessons from immigrant struggle help Occupy Wall St.?

Excerpted from a talk given by WWP Secretariat member Teresa Gutierrez at the WWP National Conference held in New York City Oct. 8-9. Go to workers.org to hear the podcast.

What I would like to contribute to the discussion is how lessons from the immigrant rights struggle can help Occupy Wall Street.

Washington has continued to foster a states' rights, decentralized approach to immigration policy. This has opened the door to Tea Party legislation like in Alabama, described as "Arizona legislation on steroids" by the bourgeois press.

The racist legislation in Alabama is not just an attack on immigrant workers. It is an attack on ALL workers. It is meant to divide workers at a time when solidarity and unity are most needed.

The Alabama legislation allows police to demand immigration papers during routine traffic stops. It requires school officials to learn the immigration status of students when they register. The first Monday after this legislation was passed over 2,000 young children did not go to school! The numbers remain high today as frightened families vanish into the night in yet another mass human exodus created by capitalist repression and exploitation.

Repressive policies such as E-verify are being put into place that are damaging for not only undocumented workers but all workers. E-verify is an identification system that is so punitive, so fraught with errors that opponents have pointed out it will create a "colossal tsunami at Social Security offices" as everyone will be forced to prove their citizenship.

Despite the overwhelming repression, the immigrant movement has not gone away. In the vanguard are the Dreamers.



Teresa Gutierrez

WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL

Although a complex movement, young immigrants, primarily undocumented, are refusing to stay in the shadows and are risking not only incarceration but deportation by demanding legalization.

We salute these young people and pay tribute to their courage.

One of the main contributions that immigrants have made to the working class movement is the revival of May Day in this country. Since 2006, May Day marches have taken place across the country every single year. They have been primarily immigrant, primarily Latino/a, but every year they reflect more and more the interests of the overall working class in this country. They have pulled out larger sectors of unionists, Black workers, anti-war activists and so on.

There is a lesson from the May Day movement for the movement awakening against Wall Street today. The students and youth occupying Wall Street right



now have ignited a fire. It is a fire fueled by unemployment, homelessness, a lack of educational opportunities, a healthy hatred of corporations and the obscenity of Wall Street profiteering.

Revolutionaries and communists are

thrilled with this development, even while recognizing its limitations. Even though the current contradictions of capitalism are bringing unprecedented misery to the masses of the world and havoc to

Continued on page 7

Socialist gathering declares:

Occupy Wall St. opens new era of struggle

Continued from page 1

Calling for Occupy Wall Street to become "Occupy the World," Holmes announced plans for a Peoples Assembly on Nov. 5 in New York that would serve as a counter to the G-20 summit in France Nov. 3-4. There, a gaggle of the billionaires' and their politicians will gather to plan how to bail out the banks, in an attempt to save their crisis-ridden capitalist system, by forcing the people of the world into an ever-deeper economic depression.

Fred Goldstein, author of "Low-Wage Capitalism," concluded this panel by noting that people's consciousness is finally catching up with their material conditions of poverty and exploitation. "Like the bubbles just under the surface when water is heated, that we can't see until they surface as steam, the movement is heating up as people's awareness surfaces."

"Twenty-first century capitalism's productive apparatus is driving skill levels down, destroying public education and promoting the education-to-prison pipeline to absorb the excess of unemployed workers. We have to remind the Occupy Wall Street protesters that it's not just the 1 percent against the 99 percent, it's the working class and oppressed against capitalist exploitation," Goldstein concluded. Gutierrez, Holmes and Goldstein along with Sara Flounders, Monica Moorehead

and Deirdre Griswold all spoke at the conference as WWP secretariat members.

Before the session ended, Sister Pam Africa, Minister of Confrontation for the MOVE organization and founder of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, addressed the gathering to tell youth in the room: "You are in the right place."

Afternoon sessions of the conference included a panel on the "Global youth rebellion against capitalism," with speakers Monserrat Alvarez, Ben Carroll, Salvatore Cipriano, LeiLani Dowell, Julie Fry, Mike Martinez and Caleb Maupin. The "Fighting imperialism and building international solidarity" panel featured Abayomi Azikiwe, Sharon Black, Sara Flounders, Jerry Goldberg, Judy Greenspan, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Steve Kirschbaum, Steve Millies, John Parker and Gloria Verdieu.

There was ample opportunity for conference participants to engage in open mike and workshop discussion. A dynamic labor and community discussion was held during the lunch break. The gathering brought together nearly 100 union and community activists to address how to respond to the crisis that is sure to emerge if the U.S. Postal Service proceeds with plans to lay off upward of 200,000 workers and close more than 8,400 post offices, primarily in rural and poor urban communities.

International solidarity

A special afternoon plenary dealt with building international solidarity. Speakers included Bernadette Ellorin, chairperson of BAYAN-USA; Fallou Gueye, RTA/S (Union of African Workers Senegal); Charles Jenkins, second vice president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and member of Transport Workers Union 100; Mick Kelly, editor of Fightback, Freedom Road Socialist Organization; Ray Laforest, International Support Haiti Network; Joe Lombardo, United National Anti-War Coalition; Lucy Pagoada, Honduras USA Resistencia and Latin American & Caribbean Solidarity Committee of the International Action Center; and Simin Royanian, representative of Solidarity Iran.

This panel also included Victor Toro, the Chilean revolutionary fighting deportation and co-founder of La Pena del Bronx, who said the conference was taking place just blocks from his home.

After the concluding sessions on both days, participants went together to participate in Occupy Wall Street.

The Oct. 9 session included more open mike discussion and a final plenary panel, chaired by Maggie Vascassenno and Debbie Johnson, on "Building a revolutionary party." It also included a tribute to Troy Davis by Dianne Mathiowetz, a Workers World member in Atlanta who helped or-

ganize the Sept. 16 International Day of Solidarity with Troy Davis. Sharon Eolis honored Arthur Ross, a founding member of WWP, who recently passed away.

Panelists presented special tributes to WWP chairperson Sam Marcy, who would have been 100 years old in 2011. Moorehead spoke about Marcy's consistent revolutionary vision and his unique boldness in anticipating world developments with such theoretical writings as "Perestroika" before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Gavrielle Gemma, noting the importance of viewing the crisis from a worker's perspective, recalled that Marcy "would remind us to put on our 'class glasses.'" Joyce Chediac showed how Marcy's interpretation of Lenin's "Imperialism" is relevant today to fighting imperialism, especially in the Middle East. Other speakers included Jefferson Azevedo, Andy Koch, Bryan G. Pfeifer and Gary Wilson.

Deirdre Griswold, a founding member of Workers World and editor of this newspaper, raised that millions of people see that capitalism is the enemy and will eventually come to the realization that the answer to capitalist crises is socialist revolution.

Excerpted remarks of many of these speakers will appear in subsequent issues of Workers World newspaper, and podcasts of their talks will be on workers.org.

WORKER WORLD PARTY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2011

Occupy Wall Street movement & the capitalist crisis

Excerpts from a talk given by Fred Goldstein, WWP Secretariat member, at the Workers World Party National Conference held in New York City, Oct. 8-9. Go to workers.org to hear the podcast.

At the past three party conferences, in 2008, 2009 and 2010, we have explained that this crisis is not just a severe capitalist crisis of the ordinary type, but that it is a crisis of the capitalist system as a whole. We said that the system has reached a point where it will not be able to revive itself by normal, economic means.

We assured people over and over again that this crisis would eventually give rise to resistance and struggle. We said that being determines consciousness, but that consciousness lags behind events. It catches up in the long run. The Occupy Wall Street movement spreading from city to city means that the ice is breaking among sections of the unemployed youth. Consciousness is beginning to catch up and is translating into some form of action. This action is bound to spread to the workers and the oppressed, and we will do all in our power to make that happen.

There have been 10 economic crises in the U.S. since World War II. The capitalist class has been able to climb out of each one and expand production and expand hiring and exploitation each time. They have used military spending and war, financial bailouts of corporations and banks, wage cutting and technological restructuring.

This crisis is different. The Federal Reserve and European central banks put over \$20 trillion into trying to revive the system and make it grow again. What have they accomplished?

There are still 30 million unemployed and underemployed in the U.S. World unemployment is officially at 205 million. European central bankers are scrambling to keep the entire financial system from imploding the way it did in 2008 after Lehman Brothers collapsed.

Economic growth in the U.S. is at a snail's pace. Germany, the engine of the European economy, has slowed to 0.1 percent growth. France, Italy and Spain have stopped growing or are in decline. Greece and Portugal are contracting rapidly. All this despite unprecedented massive intervention by the capitalist state. The Pentagon has spent \$2 trillion on the war in Afghanistan and this has not made a single dent in the mass unemployment.

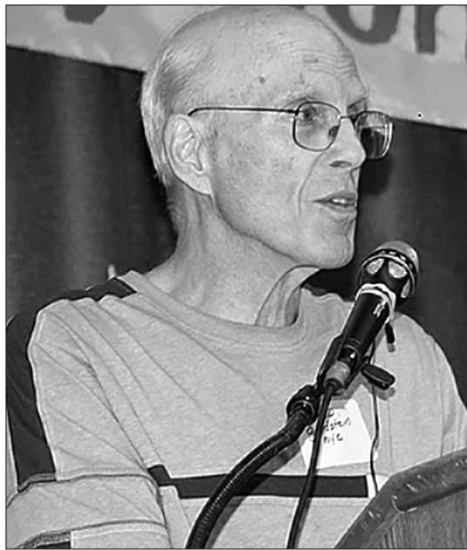
Why is none of this working? Only a Marxist understanding of the laws of capitalism can explain the present historic crisis.

The present youth movement grows out of the general crisis, and this crisis has arisen because of the operation of what Marx called the general law of capitalist accumulation.

I will try to give a short summary of the law.

Marx explained that all capitalists operate within the framework of cutthroat competition. The richer, stronger capitalist always destroys or conquers the smaller one. But the larger capitalist enterprise has become larger and richer because it has earned more profit, sweated more unpaid labor, more surplus value out of its workers than its rivals.

As the process of capitalist competition proceeds historically, the bosses use technology more and more in their struggle



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Fred Goldstein

against each other. They use technology to force the workers to be more and more productive, to turn out more and more goods and services in less and less time. Each leap forward in technology increases the mass of profit accumulated by the bosses.

But every advance in technology has a dual effect. First, it means that each capitalist needs fewer and fewer workers because each worker turns out more goods per hour. Secondly, it means that more and more skills that workers have are transferred to machines and to software.

The youth rebellion can be understood in this light. There are fewer and fewer jobs available for the new generation of workers, and the vast majority of jobs available are low-skilled and therefore low-paid.

The idea that education is the answer, that all the workers need is to get 21st century skills for the high-tech economy, is total baloney. Most of the skills that the youth have — the training that they have gotten and gone into debt for — are useless because 21st century skills under high tech capitalism are low skills, just as 21st century wages are low wages.

Large numbers of educated, mostly white youth are first getting a small taste of what millions of Black, Latino/a, Asian and Native youth have known with bitterness for years as they are shuffled through the high-school-to-prison pipeline. The system does not need their labor, does not want them.

The message we have to bring to Occupy Wall Street is that it is not just the 1 percent vs. the 99 percent. It is the working class and the oppressed against the capitalist class. It is not Wall Street in the abstract that is the enemy. It is not just millionaires and billionaires as a group isolated from the capitalist system that are the enemy. It is the system of wage slavery and exploitation, which inevitably leads to mass unemployment, inequality and crisis, which must be destroyed. □

LOW-WAGE CAPITALISM

What the new globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S.

An easy-to-read analysis of the roots of the current global economic crisis, its implications for workers and oppressed peoples, and the strategy needed for future struggle.

Paperback, 336 pages. Includes graphs, charts, bibliography, endnotes and index.

The author is available for lectures & interviews.

www.LowWageCapitalism.com

Books are available at Amazon & bookstores around the country

Jobless figures mean crisis for young people

Excerpted from a talk given by Larry Hales, WW contributing editor, at the WWP National Conference in New York City, Oct. 8-9. Go to workers.org for the podcast.

We have been talking about the crisis and that, eventually, people's consciousness will lead them into action in response to the deepening crisis that we see as intractable and continuing. The release of the job figures for last month shows that they are nowhere near being able to replace the 8 million jobs that were bled from the system because of the crisis, and they can't keep up with the new workers entering into employment age. I think last month 400,000 people became of age to enter into the job market.

In the U.S., the conditions are especially hitting young people. The occupiers down on Wall Street and in other places are majority white but young. The reason is because a lot of young people that have graduated from high school or college and have never had a job, have no prospects for a job. So, you enter into your adult life, hoping to have a family, wanting to strike out on your own, but you don't have the means and resources for which to do so.

As conditions get worse, the prospects for uprising and struggle increase.

I was just in Georgia and went to the funeral for Troy Davis. A preacher talked about how evil has the tendency to create its own demise, and it always goes too far. We say that capitalism creates its own demise.

We have been involved in the struggle for the occupation from the beginning. The seeds are sown by the objective conditions of capitalism, right? But we have been involved in pushing the movement to fight austerity and to respond to the crisis since it began. We formed Bail Out the People shortly after the markets crashed.

We were instrumental in pulling together the national student struggle, calling for nationally coordinated actions. We were instrumental, here in New York City, in coalescing unity of labor, students and community, which at that time was the cutting edge of the struggle here in the city. It was the liberal movement that had to catch up.

When we first received word of the proposed occupation of Wall Street, because organizers came to a meeting of New Yorkers Against Budget Cuts, we began talking about it and planning.

We have to admit that as great as it is, there are contradictions within this movement. The voices of oppressed people have been marginalized and have been tamped down.

The movement in general is progressive and left leaning, but there are elements hanging around the fringes, some of which are fascistic. Sometimes, when you are too inclusive, it creates a dangerous situation of letting certain political



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Larry Hales

elements take advantage of the anger and frustration and use demagoguery that sounds similar but that is fundamentally different and poisonous.

The cops have done a number of things like lead people on to the Brooklyn Bridge, trap them in and then arrest hundreds of them. The cops have tried to make it a war of attrition, but each time the numbers only grow. New York City may have a police force larger than most militaries around the world, but we saw almost 100,000 people march through the streets of New York on Wednesday, so the city does not have enough police to contain the rising anger and the numbers that are merging into the streets in excitement over the occupation on Wall Street.

Our task as revolutionaries is, within this movement, to wage an ideological struggle. To say that we have to be against capitalism. It's the capitalist system that has created the conditions. The capitalist needs and uses racism as a weapon. It is a capitalist government that forces austerity on the masses and uses the state against people of color and workers in general. It is the state of the capitalists that murdered Troy Davis, an innocent man, that wants to kill Mumia Abu-Jamal and that locks up 2.3 million people in dungeons all around the country — primarily oppressed people.

If it is capitalism that is the problem. We have to put something forward to replace it. We have to say that the development of society is a scientific thing, that things don't happen out of nowhere, and that the system has built within it its own end, and that the only way forward is for the workers to go forward in confidence, to seize control, smash the state and build a society based on solidarity, that provides for all our needs and that such a society is a socialist society.

Occupy everything! Demand everything! All Power to the People! Fight Imperialism! Stand Together! □

HIGH TECH, LOW PAY

A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

In 1986 Sam Marcy wrote that the scientific-technological revolution is accelerating a shift to lower-paying jobs and to more women, Black and Latino/a workers. Using Marxism as a living tool, he analyzes the trends and offers strategies for labor including the occupation of plants.

A new introduction by Fred Goldstein explains the need for a working-class resurgence.

www.workers.org/marcy/hightech

"With the capitalist system demonstrably unfair, it is useful, indeed refreshing, to see a Marxist analysis of globalization and its effects on working people. Fred Goldstein does exactly that."

—Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*

Low-Wage Capitalism

Fred Goldstein

Colossus with feet of clay: What the new globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S.

WORKER WORLD PARTY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2011

Occupy Wall Street: Tasks for the movement

Excerpted from a talk given by WWP Secretariat member, Larry Holmes, at the WWP National Conference held in New York City, Oct. 8-9. Go to workers.org to hear the podcast.

Occupy Wall Street has opened up space. This development, mostly white now, is getting more multinational. It's growing, and it is affecting oppressed sectors of our class. In the hundreds of cities that are now either engaged in or planning protests, many of these cities are predominantly African-American.

The AFL-CIO endorsed it. Other state labor bodies are endorsing it. This is an instance where they should support and not take it over unless they are revolutionary militant trade unionists.

There is something very distinct about this occupation. It is not a demonstration against budget cuts. It is not targeting any mayor. It is not a demonstration defending pensions or Social Security or cuts in education.

It is a demonstration against Wall Street. What does Wall Street represent? Capitalism! It is, in an incipient form, a protest against capitalism. They saw that this crisis created an opportunity to have a political demonstration and a political movement.

Anybody who is a veteran of the revolutionary struggle in this country has had to ask themselves: Did we see this coming? Should we have seen this coming?

I think we should have seen it coming. The evidence was there: the growth of the movements in North Africa, especially Egypt, and how that spiraled into Europe. The world has changed. The scientific-technological revolution has changed how people relate to each other, and it has changed politics on a global basis. The world is smaller. Social relations are closer. Europe is not thousands of miles away; it is a click away on a computer. Athens is New Jersey. Spain is the next city. So is Egypt. It is not like it was, even a generation ago.

This is what all this technology has done. Even after the brutal exploitation and oppression, the silver lining is that a lot of what is happening has brought us together and given us new weapons to fight the class enemy.

A writer for Forbes magazine, not Workers World, not a left publication, said the London riots mean global class warfare. He knew something that maybe some of us did not know for whatever reason.

Then there is the radicalization of so many youth and others because capitalism is falling apart.

Students are moving because there is a vacuum. Not that all the unions were in retreat. Wisconsin was the beginning, especially the role that the youth played there.

Even good elements of the left — they weren't looking for this. Hopefully Occupy



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Larry Holmes

Wall Street is going to wake up the left.

The comrades who spoke before me pointed out the many contradictions in Occupy Wall Street. One really regrettable part of one of their documents is one of the reasons Black, Latino/a and Asian people are saying, "I don't know about this." They say in it that we're all equal. Well, that is nice, but I am afraid it is not true.

No, sorry. Racism, sexism, anti-lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer bigotry, classism and all sorts of lesser inequalities mean we are not all equal. We need solidarity with those who don't have equality to liberate them so that they will have equality.

But despite that and other contradictions, we have to support this movement, help it grow. We have to help it spread. We have to defend it against the state.

In this movement there will ultimately be a left, a right and a center. There will be those who will go into the Democratic Party, into some petty-bourgeois thing, and then there will be those who go to the class struggle, to an anti-imperialist perspective, solidarity with the oppressed, socialism — that's the left. Our job is to strengthen that wing. We have to do more.

Some of us with our allies in New York are planning a counter G-20 Peoples Assembly on Saturday, Nov. 5 to counter the G-20 meeting being held in France. Europe is going through what Wall Street was going through in September 2008 except that whatever happens in Europe will affect the U.S. and the whole world. So we could have another Lehman moment. If you remember, that is when the whole capitalist financial system almost collapsed.

This meeting in France on the 3rd or 4th of November is going to be about political leaders, central bankers and other bankers trying to figure out how to bail out banks on the backs of the workers using more austerity, unemployment and depression conditions.

So this is a perfect time to have a counter to G-20, a Peoples Assembly. Occupy everywhere! Build socialism! Shutdown capitalism! Strengthen the revolution! It may be closer than you think. □



Artie Rosen Presente!!

Arthur "Artie" Rosen, one of the first members of Workers World Party when it was founded in 1959 and a lifelong militant communist, passed away at the age of 82 Oct. 3 from kidney failure. An obituary will appear in a future WW.

'Let's applaud the Wall Street protesters'

Excerpts from a talk by a Durham, N.C. WWP branch organizer Cathey Stanley, at the Workers World Party National Conference on Oct. 8. Go to workers.org to hear the podcast.

Welcome to Workers World Party's annual conference. This is a time to learn from comrades, to share our achievements, to explore the work that challenges us, and to collaborate as a party to move our work forward.

It is an exciting and important time to be here. Protesters, inspired by the courageous youth struggle in Greece and the successful movements in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, are occupying Wall Street in the style of the Arab Spring. Their critical demands include restoration of a livable wage, universal single-payer health care, free college education, racial and gender rights amendments, and open borders.

Let's applaud the Wall Street protesters. For those here from Wall Street, your tireless dedication has inspired occupations across the nation, and worldwide. Globally, there are occupations in more than 420 cities.

One occupier asked people to say in one word why they were on Wall Street. Some replied, "Hope," "Self," and "Future." My word is "Capitalism." As a single mother, I — as well as other single mothers — experience financial, logistical, social and legal challenges that derive from capitalism. We face the astronomical cost of childcare, more than \$1,000 a month, even in rural North Carolina.

My son is #601 on Orange County's list of children who financially qualify to receive subsidized childcare. Most children have been on the list for two years, while Social Services does not anticipate any extra funding. If more than 600 children need subsidized childcare in one North Carolina county, how many in the U.S. desperately need it? The lack of financial



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Cathey Stanley

support for childcare shows that capitalism does not work for children.

In this patriarchal society, mothers raise our children. Therefore, capitalism does not work for women.

Childcare costs keep women in poverty, and out of the workforce, or force us into unsuitable working conditions. They keep women financially dependent on others so that we are trapped in bad relationships or feel forever indebted to others. Only with financial freedom will women be free. We demand socialized childcare, which will come with capitalism's overthrow and the establishment of socialism.

WWP is one of the few spheres where I have access as a single mother, and the space to speak and organize. I committed to the Party because it is dedicated to making WW accessible to those whose circumstances would otherwise keep them out of political activity and empowerment. WW's perspective is that childcare is the entire society's responsibility. I applaud WW, specifically the Durham branch, for always ensuring childcare for events, allowing me to fully participate in a realm of society that would otherwise be inaccessible to me and other mothers. □

How can lessons from immigrant struggle help Occupy Wall Street?

Continued from page 5

the environment, these conditions have nonetheless begun to shed light for those workers who were in the dark.

It does not matter how hard you work or how much education you get, this system could care less about you.

While the struggles that have broken out in the imperialist-capitalist centers of Europe and the U.S. are pivotal and decisive, we must not forget the struggles that began in the nations of the most oppressed.

They began not long ago when women marched in Nigeria against the oil corporations, when the Venezuelan masses wrested President Chavez from the hands of the imperialist oligarchy, when the Zapatistas burst into Chiapas against NAFTA, when the masses of the Philippines took over roads and bridges, when the Bolivians kicked out Bechtel from their homeland and so on.

Truly a global peoples assembly has in some ways already taken place. Truly countless occupations and takeovers have already occurred.

This kind of experience is what immigrant workers bring into this country, and

it must be tapped so we can go forward.

Maybe there are language barriers, maybe immigrants do not speak English, maybe they are not bilingual. But neither are most people in this country. Immigrants are just humble — maybe — about being monolingual, while most "Americans" are arrogant at worst or oblivious at best about being monolingual.

So as the talk from OWS emerges about a one-day general strike or the call for no work, no shopping, no school grows, our party will work like hell to build unity. We will work like hell to make sure that oppressed people are welcome and represented and in fact step forward into leadership.

We will work like hell to expose capitalism at every turn and show that, yes, one of the best symbols of the capitalist system truly is Wall Street. But so is the New York Police Department. So is the Supreme Court. So is the New York Times. So is the military on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The capitalist class depends on competition to survive. Our class must depend on solidarity and unity to survive. That is what this call to march to Occupy Wall Street is all about. □

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, unsung hero

Leaves legacy of fire and courage in Civil Rights struggle

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a leading figure in the Civil Rights movement, passed away on Oct. 5 in Cincinnati. He was 89. Shuttlesworth is one of the many unsung heroes in the struggle to break down legalized segregation in the South, where African Americans were subjected to slave-like conditions of social and economic deprivation and state-sanctioned terror for more than a century after the Civil War ended.

Shuttlesworth's life and legacy are illustrated by the passage of laws that struck down racial barriers in the United States due to the organization and mobilization by the African-American people themselves. The struggles carried out by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Shuttlesworth's Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights led to congressional passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Shuttlesworth was born on March 18, 1922, in Mt. Meigs, Ala. By 1940 he had graduated from Rosedale High School, a significant achievement for African Americans then in the Deep South. During World War II, he was a truck driver. He attained a bachelor's degree at Selma University, a master's degree, and then he became a Baptist minister.

In 1952 Shuttlesworth relocated to Birmingham, the most segregated major Southern city. It was known for police repression and mob violence against the African-American population. There, Black steelworkers and service sector workers were subjected to super-exploitation.

Shuttlesworth became Bethel Baptist Church's pastor in North Birmingham in 1953. That year the mass Civil Rights movement first surfaced with a bus boycott against segregation in Baton Rouge, La.

The U.S. Supreme Court, after years of legal challenges, issued the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* in Topeka ruling, and in 1955 it declared that school desegregation should proceed "with all deliberate speed." Nonetheless, it took another 15 years to get any real movement on school integration in the U.S. South and the North.

The Civil Rights struggle emerges in Alabama

In 1955, responding to the rising ferment, Shuttlesworth and 76 other ministers petitioned the Birmingham City Commission to hire African-American police officers. Their efforts were rejected.

The same year, African Americans throughout the country were shocked and angered by the brutal lynching of young Emmett Till in Mississippi.

The African-American community in Montgomery, led by the Montgomery Improvement Association, organized a citywide boycott of the segregated public transportation system, which began on Dec. 1, 1955. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged during this historic struggle to national prominence as a Civil Rights spokesperson.

In 1956 Shuttlesworth accompanied Autherine Lucy in her attempt to desegregate the University of Alabama. The state of Alabama then got an injunction outlawing the NAACP.

Immediately, Rev. Shuttlesworth founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, which demanded an end to segregation and the hiring of African Americans in Birmingham's civil service.

In the first significant victory in the Civil Rights movement, the Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation on Montgomery's buses in December 1956.

Days later, Shuttlesworth's home was bombed. Yet he emerged unharmed, with greater determination to continue the struggle against segregation.

In January 1957 Shuttlesworth, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Ralph



Abernathy founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Soon after, a racist mob beat Shuttlesworth; his spouse, Ruby Shuttlesworth; and Lamar Weaver, a white union worker and minister, when they sought to desegregate Birmingham's bus station.

Later that year Shuttlesworth petitioned the Birmingham Board of Education to enroll two of his daughters at the all-white Phillips High School. When he, his spouse and his children attempted to enter the school, Klansmen viciously attacked them.

To instill fear in the African-American community, the Ku Klux Klan castrated Judge Aaron, a young Black man, and threatened to do the same to any Black student who enrolled in a segregated public school.

The following year, racist police chief Bull Connors instigated a plot with known white supremacist J.B. Stoner, who then bombed Shuttlesworth's Bethel Baptist Church.

Shuttlesworth was driven out of Alabama after Birmingham officials retaliated and sued him when a New York Times ad accused them of harassing the ACMHR. The courts assessed him \$500,000 in damages and seized his car and home.

After relocating to Cincinnati in 1961, Shuttlesworth regularly traveled to Birmingham to organize demonstrations against segregation.

1963: The high tide of the Civil Rights struggle

When Shuttlesworth and other Civil Rights leaders were being arrested and jailed in Birmingham, he and the ACMHR appealed to Dr. King and other leaders to initiate a campaign of mass civil disobedience in Birmingham.

In 1963 demonstrations against racism and segregation spread throughout the South and other U.S. regions. In Birmingham thousands marched, facing beatings, fire hoses, attack dogs and jail.

In 1964 the federal Civil Rights Act was passed which outlawed legalized segregation in the U.S. That year, the Supreme Court reversed Shuttlesworth's conviction in the landmark free speech case regarding the New York Times ad.

Shuttlesworth kept at his activism in Alabama and Ohio from the 1960s through the 1980s. He spoke out strongly against police brutality and murders of African Americans in both states.

In 1967 he attempted to intervene in the Cincinnati rebellions by advocating nonviolence. However, by this time, African-American youth were moving in the direction of Black Power and revolutionary struggle.

Shuttlesworth's legacy & the role of youth today

Although legalized segregation was ended in the U.S. as a result of the Civil Rights struggle, the ruling class seeks to reverse 50 years of gains. With the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, racism is on the rise, despite the advent of the first African-American president.

Youth, students and workers have initiated a new round of mass struggles in the U.S. The Wisconsin occupations, the emergence of new activists in this fight, and the racist execution of Troy Davis have fueled the anger and impatience of millions across the country.

The Wall Street occupation has spread to other cities, suburbs and towns throughout the U.S. The contributions of Shuttlesworth and the Civil Rights activists of the 1950s and 1960s should inspire the current generation who are seeking the elimination of racism, national oppression, economic exploitation, imperialist war and social injustice. □

Cop indicted for killing of Detroit child

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

Aiyana Stanley Jones, a 7-year-old African-American girl, was shot to death during a police raid on a home on Detroit's east side on May 16, 2010. The killing sparked outrage throughout the city of Detroit and around the country.

Some 16 months after the shooting and a subsequent Michigan State Police investigation, Detroit County Prosecutor Kim Worthy charged police officer Joseph Weekley with involuntary manslaughter in Jones' death. Also charged in the incident is Allison Howard of Boston, who was working as a photographer with "The First 48," a reality television program which was filming the raid for airing. She faces trial on charges of perjury and obstructing government justice, as the prosecution alleges she showed a video of the raid to "third parties."

The police said they were raiding the downstairs apartment where Jones was sleeping with her grandmother as part of an investigation into the shooting death of 17-year-old Je'Rean Blake, who was killed two days earlier in the same neighborhood.



Aiyana Stanley Jones

Aiyana Jones' father, Charles Jones, was recently charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Blake. Chauncey Owens was arrested on the same morning that the child was killed. He was in the apartment upstairs from the site of the killing.

Roland Lawrence, aka Fige Bornu, chairperson of the Justice for Aiyana Jones Committee, issued a press release in response to Weekley and Howard's indictments, which said, "The Aiyana Jones tragedy is a pathetic and heinous symbol of 'police gone wild,' and must be held as an end all on how police agencies interact with poor communities of color.

"The Justice for Aiyana Jones Committee seeks to make sure that Aiyana's father, Charles Jones, is afforded a fair and balanced trial, including a mandate that his peer group demographic is represented on his jury."

Detroit police have a long history of inflicting brutality and terror upon the overwhelmingly majority African-American community. Despite the fact that the Detroit Police Department since 2003 has been under two U.S. Justice Department consent decrees mandating changes in the use of lethal force and conditions in city lockups, the same brutal behavior that resulted in the community outrage that led to the federal intervention, remains to this day. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes:

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Despite intense bombing

Libyan patriots resist NATO-led forces in Sirte

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, formerly director of the CIA, said at a news conference at NATO headquarters on Oct. 6 that the nearly nine-month-old war against the North African state of Libya would continue until all vestiges of resistance on the part of the people were eliminated.

This means that the intensive bombing of civilian areas and the national infrastructure will not let up. More innocent people will die by the thousands in this oil-producing country.

The following day Panetta visited the U.S. Naval Air Station at Sigonella, Italy, which has served as a major launching point for more than 20,000 sorties and 9,000-plus air strikes carried out so far in the war. He stood in front of the Global Hawk, a sophisticated fighter aircraft that provides important surveillance and intelligence information from its flights over Libya.

This aircraft can fly 24-hour, high-altitude missions that capture and transmit photographs of what is taking place on the ground. Panetta boasted that the war on Libya will provide lessons for future military operations.

Resistance continues in Sirte

Meanwhile, the forces of the National Transitional Council, supported by the U.S. and NATO, have for a month been attempting to take both Bani Walid and Sirte, two strongholds of the loyalist forces still committed to defending the country against the imperialist onslaught. Since March 17 NATO has bombed the nation nonstop. Despite numerous attempts to seize both cities, the NTC forces have been repelled, suffering hundreds of casualties.

According to an Oct. 10 Associated Press report, “The inability to take Sirte, the most important remaining stronghold of Gadhafi supporters, more than six weeks after the capital fell, has stalled ef-

forts by Libya’s new leaders to set a timeline for elections and move forward with a transition to democracy.”

The NTC and NATO have no mandate to wage war or rule Libya. This is reflected in the fierce fighting by the Libyan people against these foreign financed and armed elements, which are handing over the country’s oil, natural gas and waterways to their imperialist masters.

British Defense Secretary Liam Fox, who is consumed by charges of corruption in the scandal-ridden government of Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, announced that even if the NATO-led forces took Sirte, the Western “military actions would continue as long as remnants of the regime pose a risk to the people of Libya.” (AP, Oct. 10)

The NTC launched a new offensive against Sirte on Oct. 7. Although the city has been under siege for weeks and NATO has extensively bombed targets inside and around the coastal town, including a major hospital, the putative leader of the NTC, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, admitted on Oct. 10, “Our fighters today are still dealing with snipers positioned on the high buildings and we sustained heavy casualties.”

The imperialists view the capture of Sirte as key to their strategic objective of subduing Libya. Some 250 miles southeast of Tripoli, Sirte is considered essential in solidifying neocolonial control over Libya’s 6 million people because it lies at the center of the coastal plain containing most of the population.

Gadhafi calls for intensifying resistance

In an Oct. 6 audio message, broadcast over Syria’s Al-Rai television, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi called for the escalation of both military and political opposition to the NTC and its NATO backers. He called for “new million-man marches in all cities and villages and oases” and described conditions in Libya as “unbearable” and the so-called NTC revolution as “a charade gaining its legitimacy

through air strikes.”

Civilians who have fled Sirte since the siege and bombing say, “We didn’t know where the strikes were coming from. Everyone is being hit all day and all night.” (Reuters, Oct. 10)

The NATO-led attacks have created a humanitarian crisis. One family pointed out, “There is no electricity and no water. There is nothing. There is not one neighborhood that hasn’t been hit.” Nevertheless, the resistance to this military onslaught remains formidable.

Even the British press agency Reuters noted on Oct. 10 that “NTC forces have repeatedly claimed to be on the point of victory in Sirte, only to suffer sudden reversals at the hands of a tenacious enemy fighting for its life, surrounded on three sides and with its back to the sea. In just one field hospital to the east of the city, doctors said they had received 17 dead and 87 wounded in the fighting on Oct. 9. There were dozens more casualties elsewhere.”

NATO war seeks imperialist domination

NATO has refused to investigate the thousands of civilian deaths emanating from the atrocities committed by the NTC and the U.S. and European air strikes. In addition, an estimated \$15 billion in property damage has been carried out against Libya thus far.

The imperialist countries have frozen \$128 billion in Libyan assets accumulated during the period of Gadhafi’s leadership. The country reportedly owes no money to the International Monetary Fund or the

AFGHANISTAN

Mineral riches spur imperialist grab

By **David Sole**

It isn’t often that you get an education in political science from a prominent journal dedicated to the natural sciences. But the October 2011 issue of Scientific American has provided an answer to the question many have posed: Why has the United States been carrying on a war in Afghanistan for the past 10 years?

In an article titled, “Afghanistan’s Buried Riches,” author Sarah Simpson reveals a startling account of the collaboration between the U.S. Army and the U.S. Geological Survey in that war-torn country. For seven years 50 USGS geologists have been ferried around in Black Hawk helicopters along with their personal military escorts. Often the scientists land for only one hour, surrounded by armed troops in areas that could erupt into fire-fights at any time.

These scientists and the Pentagon have covered the country and mapped an amazing array of rich mineral deposits.

The USGS project director, Jack H. Medlin, told the author that Afghanistan could be “one of the most important mining centers on earth.” In one area the USGS has identified deposits of rare earth minerals that could supply the world’s demand for 10 years at a value estimated at \$7.4 billion. The Pentagon figures that same site has an additional \$82 billion worth of other important minerals.

World Bank. This distinguishes Libya from other African and developing states, which have been strangled by debt payments to the global financial institutions based in the West.

A delegation of World Bank and IMF officials is scheduled to visit the country amid infighting among the NTC leaders, who have consistently failed to create a provisional government. A recent plot to assassinate the military leader of the NTC shows the incapacity of this group to control the country without the continuing support and coordination of NATO.

Anti-war forces inside the NATO countries must step up their opposition to the war against Libya and expose through leaflets, broadcasts, mass demonstrations and petitions that this effort on the part of the imperialists is no different than what is taking place in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Palestine. The U.S. and the other NATO countries, faced with a worsening economic crisis at home, are escalating their aggression against the oppressed nations.

Demonstrations and occupations by youth and workers inside the U.S. and Europe are growing, but greater efforts are needed to link the plight of the working class and the oppressed, both inside the imperialist states as well as in the most underdeveloped regions of the planet. It is only through this unity that the economic crisis can be effectively challenged by those who are the most severely impacted by the current stage in capitalist globalization. □

Skulls & hypocrisy

By **G. Dunkel**

As a gesture of “reconciliation,” the German imperialist government sent 20 skulls back to Namibia in early October. They had been removed from the bodies of Herero and Nama warriors killed by German soldiers who were occupying their country — then called South West Africa by Europeans — in the early 20th century.

The skulls had been taken to Germany more than a hundred years ago for racist experiments.

When the Herero people rose up in anger over these beheadings and attacks on their herds and lands, the German army began a campaign of genocide against them. In three years, 90,000 people were reduced to 15,000, who were then driven into the Namib desert. The German army even poisoned the water holes and wells, using a tactic that went back to the Middle Ages when Jews were accused and persecuted for something that Germans had done.

Gen. Lothar von Trotha, speaking as the Great General of the German Kaiser, issued his infamous Extermination Order

on Oct. 2, 1904: “The Herero people must however leave the land. If the people do not do this I will force them with cannon. Within German borders every Herero, armed or not, with or without cattle, will be shot. I will no longer accept women and children, I will drive them back to their people or I will shoot them. These are my words to the Herero people.”

While the Namibian people welcomed the return of their ancestors’ bones, they were angered by the refusal of Germany, which has paid substantial reparations to the racist, Zionist state of Israel, to pay reparations to Namibia.

The kind of genocide unleashed in the 1940s against the Jews and Romani in Europe had its beginning 40 years earlier in Africa.

White farmers, descendants of German settlers who still speak German, and some racist white Boers from South Africa still farm the land seized from the Hereros more than a hundred years ago.

University professor Hoze Riruako, a senior adviser to the paramount chief of the Herero, warned that their patience was running out.

Continued on page 10

The vetoes this time

While demonstrations against austerity were going on in so many places, an unusual thing happened at the United Nations on Oct. 4. Both Russia and China cast vetoes against a resolution introduced by the governments of four European imperialist countries — Britain, France, Germany and Portugal — that would have opened the door to economic sanctions on Syria. Only nine of the 15 members of the Security Council voted for the measure. Brazil, India, South Africa and Lebanon all abstained. The U.S. was the main force behind the resolution but did not formally sponsor it for fear that would stiffen opposition to the measure. Nevertheless, this effort to justify sanctions on Syria became “a diplomatic failure for the West,” in the words of the New York Times. (Oct. 5)

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said she was “outraged” over the vetoes.

Back in the day when there was a Soviet Union, vetoes by both sides were much more common. Since then, however, it has been the U.S. that has exercised its veto most frequently — voting five times since 2004 against Security Council resolutions that mildly criticized Israel’s oppression of the Palestinians, for example.

The U.S., Britain and France hold the record for double and even triple vetoes, according to Professor Stephen Zunes of the University of San Francisco. Zunes says there have been 23 double vetoes by the U.S. and Britain and 13 triple vetoes by the U.S., Britain and France, all imperialist countries with huge economic interests in Africa. Most of these vetoes, he pointed out, were in regard to sanctions and related matters involving South Africa, Namibia or Rhodesia in the 1970s and 1980s. (IPS, Oct. 5) The imperialist vetoes were an attempt to deny support for the national liberation struggles in these horribly repressive colonial settler-states.

So Rice’s “outrage” over this double veto by Russia and China is hypocritical, to say the least.

The U.S. ruling class is once again using the issue of “human rights” as a cover for its schemes for regime change in the oil-rich Middle East and North Africa. Just last March, Washington was able

to get a resolution through the Security Council that supposedly was to save lives in Libya. U.S. Ambassador Rice said creating “no-fly zones” over that country was to “protect Libyan civilians.”

The countries that vetoed the current resolution on Syria had only abstained on that vote, which allowed it to pass. That resolution was then used as justification by the U.S. and NATO to launch a full-scale air war against the Libyan government, freeze billions of dollars of its assets, and lavish money on the mercenary army that they call the “rebels.”

After nine months of devastating aerial bombardment to assist their mercenaries’ ground offensives, NATO still has not been able to overcome the Libyan people’s resistance.

In casting their vetoes this time, both China and Russia, determined not to repeat their earlier mistake, referred to how the vote on Libya had been used as justification for war.

What does all this mean for the Syrian people?

The Secretary General of the National Committee for the Unity of Syrian Communists, Qadri Jamil, led a delegation of Syrian progressives to Moscow on Oct. 10 to thank Russia for its veto preventing foreign interference in Syrian affairs.

Jamil said, “Noninterference opens the road for peaceful ways of resolving the crisis and carrying out reforms by Syrian means and gives the people’s movement an opportunity to get what they want.” (Ria Novosti, Oct. 6)

Also in the delegation was Ali Haidar, leader of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. “A lot has been said about Syria, but it does not reflect the real situation. We operate in all provinces of our country and we know what is going on there,” he said. He denied that the double veto of the U.N. resolution helped the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. “The veto of the Security Council resolution is a shield for the people’s movement,” Haidar said.

Whatever influence these groups may have in Syria, this is a far superior position to that taken 10 years ago by the Iraqi Communist Party when the U.S. threatened invasion. That party failed to oppose the imperialist intervention that overthrew Saddam Hussein, only to impose a neocolonial regime on that country. □

lies a damning admission of U.S.-based terrorism. Judge Lenard ordered that González remain in the U.S. for three years of “supervised release” but “is forbidden to visit places frequently attended by individuals or groups of terrorists, members of organizations that encourage the use of violence and organized crime elements.”

The International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 stated on Oct. 7: “René González will only be free when he returns to Cuba. ... We have to ask [President Barack] Obama to identify and put a restraining order on terrorist groups and individuals who operate freely in Miami so that they cannot come near René. After all, part of Judge Lenard’s conditions for his release was that René could not associate, or be in the vicinity of terrorists — the very people he was monitoring. During René’s ‘supervised’

EUROPE

Workers resist layoffs, cutbacks

By John Catalinotto

Most news published in the corporate media here about the problems in the “eurozone” involve the threat of Greece declaring bankruptcy and this spreading to Portugal and maybe even Spain and Italy.

This financial crisis, however, has another side more important to those interested in the fate of the working class worldwide. The European ruling class and its politicians aim to make the European workers pay to rescue the banks that are at risk. This means greater unemployment, lower wages and fewer government benefits. That’s the real crisis for the working class.

Europe’s workers are on the defensive, but they are resisting. The best organized resistance is from Greece and Portugal, where communist parties have influence with large sectors of the workers, but there are signs of resistance throughout the continent.

On Oct. 1, some 180,000 workers marched in Lisbon and Porto, responding to the call of the major trade union federation, the CGTP. According to the online magazine odiario.info, “More significant even than the mass expression of these important initiatives have been the fighting spirit and determination expressed” by the working class.

The right-wing Social Democrat/Christian Democrat regime has been carrying on a “relentless offensive against the workers and people,” but they are now meeting a strong resistance, writes Odiario.

Workers held massive demonstrations on Sept. 28 in the major cities of Greece. Then government workers and those in former public companies that have been privatized had a national strike on Oct.

5 against tax increases, layoffs and pay cuts. The taxation of low pay (\$480 per month) and pensions (\$535 per month) as well as real estate, with a rate per square meter to be charged on electricity bills, are some of the odious measures approved by the Greek Parliament last week. (Avante, Oct. 7)

However, as emphasized by the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), the anti-people offensive is “not temporary” and will continue until the workers are completely stripped of their wages and benefits.

According to the government’s latest plan, announced Oct. 2, “Athens wants to eliminate 30,000 jobs in the civil service in order to save 300 million euros. ... The goal is to reduce public services by 30 percent by 2013, [which] will involve the reduction of 150,000 workers. However, unions are preparing to paralyze the country with a general strike on Oct. 19.” (Avante, Oct. 7)

In Britain, according to the police estimate about 30,000 people, mobilized by the TUC trade union confederation, demonstrated on Oct. 2 in Manchester in protest against the government policies of Prime Minister David Cameron, who was in that city to be at the Conservatives’ Congress. The protesters included government workers, among them teachers and firefighters, but also private sector workers.

They brought banners and posters to the building that hosted the meeting of conservatives. There, protesters read statements against cuts in pensions, the reduction of jobs in public services and calls for policy change, with the express requirement for the government’s resignation. The TUC is preparing another day of strike for Nov. 30. □

but did not mention reparations when he addressed 1,000 people gathered at the Heroes’ Acre shrine outside Windhoek, the capital.

“German imperial troops committed horrendous atrocities” against Namibians, he said. (AFP, Oct. 4)

“Through their unselfish sacrifices, our ancestors laid a strong foundation for the modern liberation struggle,” leading to independence from South Africa in 1990.

“Their spirits were never broken and while their mortal remains were removed from Namibia amidst the ruins of war, they returned now to an independent, peaceful and stable Namibia.”

Namibia is a potentially very prosperous country but with an extremely high degree of economic inequality inherited from its colonial past. For Germany to pretend to strive for reconciliation without reparations is nothing more than a hypocritical attempt to hide its racist past in Africa. □

Skulls & hypocrisy

Continued from page 9

“If something is not done, we cannot guarantee that you will not see the same kind of land grabs that you see in Zimbabwe,” he said. (Associated Press, Oct. 4)

Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba decried the colonial-era abuses,

René González of Cuban 5 released

By Cheryl LaBash

René González, one of the Cuban Five, was released from prison in Marianna, Fla., on Oct. 7 to his daughters Ivette and Irma, his father, his brother and his attorney. Once again the U.S. government violated internationally recognized human rights standards by denying a visa to Olga Salanueva, his spouse.

The Cuban people and government, international parliaments, unions, media personalities and Nobel laureates have demanded freedom for all the five Cubans unjustly held in U.S. prisons for monitoring U.S.-based paramilitaries who planned and committed violent acts against Cuba.

In a Sept. 16 letter, the original trial in the case, Judge Joan Lenard, denied a defense motion asking that González be allowed to return to Cuba after his release. Within her written denial of this motion

is by saying, ‘If they say that he is a danger to that society, what is the reason to keep him there?’

“Now is the time to focus our efforts to move the sky and the earth to demand that Obama immediately release René González to his family and his homeland.” □



René González Schwerert

probation the question has to be who will be supervising the terrorists?

“One of the excuses being used to keep René González in the U.S. is that he could be a danger to the United States. They could remedy that easily by sending him home. This morning Olga summed up how ridiculous this argument



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Fernando González Llort and Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez

An anti-imperialist, Marxist perspective

Why U.S. wants regime change in Syria

The following are excerpts from a talk given by Joyce Chediac at a Workers World Party forum in Detroit on Oct. 1.

The U.S. government claims it supports the huge social explosion rocking the Arab world and northern Africa. A closer look shows that it is trying to take advantage of these struggles to consolidate its stranglehold there.

U.S. “support” of movements opposed to Arab governments is selective. The government of Ali Abdullah Saleh in Yemen killed 100 people last week. It was a massacre, but no U.S. administration official called Saleh “a monster murdering his own people.” There was no move in the United Nations for a no-fly zone. In fact, U.S. drones regularly bomb Yemen, a U.S. client regime located on strategic waterways. Instead, in his U.N. speech on Sept. 21 Obama made the mildest of comments and called for “seeking a path that allows for a peaceful transition” in Yemen.

The White House, Congress and the Pentagon are going after the few Arab governments with some independence from imperialism: Libya, and now Syria.

In Syria there is a great deal at stake for the workers and rural poor as there is throughout the Middle East. Syria is in a strategic anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist alliance with Iran, with Hezbollah in Lebanon, and with Hamas in Gaza. This alliance is crucial in holding back the predatory Zionist state [of Israel] from taking over the whole area. Washington would like to break up this alliance and move against them all.

Yet some progressives in the Middle East are opposed to the Syrian government, much as some were opposed to Gadhafi. Why is this so?

Marxist political perspective needed

Governments like those in Syria are called “bourgeois nationalist” by Marxists. They are nationalist because they seek to develop their countries free from imperialist domination. They are bourgeois because they are ruled by an exploiting class — capitalists. Marxists support these governments against imperialism because they are manifestations of self-determination of the oppressed. This does not mean that Marxists support every policy of these governments.

Marxists also recognize that these regimes have a dual character. They are bourgeois nationalist because they seek to push out the imperialists so they can better exploit their workers. But they have common interest with their workers when imperialism threatens the country’s sovereignty. These governments cannot consistently fight imperialism, as the working class can.

For example, Syria is a “front line state” with a border with Israel. This fact affects every aspect of Syria’s history, has made it an object of constant imperialist and Zionist pressure, and links the fate of the Syrian people to the Palestinian struggle.

Syria’s nationalization of a U.S. oil pipeline precipitated the 1967 war, with Israel attacking and occupying Syria’s Golan Heights, the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. The Golan Heights has since been annexed by Israel.

While Syria plays a regionally progressive role right now, this was not always the case. In 1976, the Syrian government intervened in Lebanon’s civil war on the side of Lebanon’s fascists, who were armed by Israel, against a revolutionary

Palestinian-Lebanese alliance. The Syrian capitalists feared that a revolutionary Lebanon might lead to their overthrow by Syrians dominated by the Arab Socialist Baath Party. The current head of state in Syria is Bashir Assad.

Relentless pressure from the U.S. and Israel, and Israel’s refusal to return the Golan Heights, has Syria’s rulers back towards an anti-imperialist stance.

Syria, like other bourgeois nationalist governments, has neither broken with the capitalist world market, nor has the perspective to do so. Instead, it seeks a better deal in this market, which is completely dominated by Western banks.

During economic downturns, nationalist governments like Syria are forced by Wall Street to make economic concessions which attack the workers and establish a pro-imperialist elite, a comprador bourgeoisie, which undermines the government’s independence from imperialism and isolates it from the workers.

In 2006, Syria adopted an International Monetary Fund plan calling for austerity measures, a wage freeze, opening the economy to foreign banks, and privatizing government-run industries. For workers this has meant unemployment, inflation and deterioration in social conditions. These policies have benefited a group of elite businessmen close to the Assad family.

Nature of imperialist intervention

“The Syrian state once brought electricity to every town, but ... can no longer afford the social contract of taking care of people’s needs.” (New York Times, April 30) The social contract among religious minorities has been “We will protect you but stay out of politics.” The government

apparatus has been run by the same family, the Assad family, for 40 years. Those who disagreed suffered repression.

Many Syrians are fed up with the Assad government, and for good reason. But imperialism has not imposed sanctions on Syria because the government there has impoverished the workers and because few have a voice in the government.

U.S. imperialism hates Syria for hosting leaders of the Palestinian resistance; for refusing to give up its claims to the Golan Heights; for refusing to sign a peace treaty with Israel; for refusing to end its relationship with Hezbollah, the Lebanese resistance movement and with Iran; and for refusing to be part of the attack on Iraq in 2003.

In short, imperialism is sanctioning the Syrian government and increasing pressure on it not for the bad things it has done, but for the good things.

Imperialism is a thoroughly reactionary and oppressive system. When the imperialists come to “help,” it is to help themselves. Imperialist intervention is always meant to benefit the imperialists, whose interests are diametrically opposed to those of workers.

Just look at what NATO’s “help” for the people of Libya has meant: The destruction of the civilian infrastructure and economy; cancer-causing radioactive residue from depleted uranium weapons; and using Libya to get its predatory Africom military command on African soil.

A U.S. and NATO intervention in Syria would be the worst thing for all the oppressed people in the Middle East and must be vehemently opposed. A win for imperialism abroad emboldens the capitalists in their attacks on workers at home. □

Students & workers clash with police in Chile

By Gene Clancy

Chilean police used water cannons and tear gas to attack a student march for free public education on Oct. 6, hours after protesters’ talks with the government collapsed.

A huge deployment of riot police surrounded students in the Plaza Italia, Santiago’s traditional gathering place. Student leader Camila Vallejo tried to lead the march while holding a sign saying, “United and Stronger,” only to be pummeled by water cannons and forced to retreat by tear gas.

Protesters hurled rocks at police and set blockades ablaze in the streets as officers on horseback chased students onto nearby campuses. Vallejo said police shot tear gas into their student government offices in “a direct attack against our organization.” The deputy interior secretary said that 285 public buses had been damaged in the course of constant skirmishes with the police. More than 30 people were injured.

Students occupied the Alameda, one of Santiago’s main avenues, by dancing in large numbers, but were blasted with water by the police. Small groups managed to elude officers and approach the presidential palace before being beaten back by police. More than 150 people were arrested in Santiago.

Radio Bio Bio said that in the cities of Concepción, Talca, Curico, Valdivia and Valparaíso, “particularly serious” disturbances occurred, and the “carabineros,” Chile’s militarized national police force, reported 124 students arrested there.



“The government is the guilty one for refusing everything. We request permission to march and they do not give it, we ask for free education and neither [do they give that],” said Camila Vallejo. (Latin American Tribune, Oct. 9)

The Oct. 6 march was the 37th weekly protest since the movement against Chile’s largely privatized education system began in April. The movement is demanding more spending and higher taxes on the wealthy so that quality public education can be free for all.

Chile’s public schools and universities were neglected by the 1973-1990 dictatorship of the late Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who embraced doctrinaire free market policies. For-profit schools mushroomed under the military regime and the trend continued after democracy was restored, even during the 1990-2010 tenure of the center-left Concertación coalition.

Students accuse the current president, right-wing billionaire Sebastián Piñera, of seeking to push through “a privatizing agenda.” Polls show 89 percent of Chileans support the students’ call for reform, and only 22 percent support Piñera’s performance.

The youth movement has received significant support from Chile’s labor movement. The day after the protests, union and student leaders called for a 48-hour general strike on Oct. 19. (Associated Press, Oct. 7)

Strike demands include removing remaining constitutional vestiges of the 1973-1990 military dictatorship, boosting taxes on corporations, reversing the privatization of the retirement system and allocating more resources to health and education.

Although President Piñera has said that the protests “are having no effect,” he

showed on Oct. 9 that the government has indeed been shaken, by signing into law the most repressive legislation yet against the student – and teacher-led protests.

The legislation seeks to criminalize illegal occupation or invasion of buildings and increase penalties for public disorder. If approved, the new law will force television channels to release tape used to record the protests so that authorities can find and prosecute individual protesters.

The goal of this repressive legislation, like the fascist tactics of the police, is to crush student occupations like the one by the students of the Carmela Carvajal primary and secondary school.

Dozens of teenage girls emerged from the predawn darkness and scaled the spiked iron fence around the school. They used classroom chairs to barricade themselves inside and settled in. Five months later, the occupation shows no signs of ending and the students are still fighting for their goal: Free education for all.

So much food has poured in from supporters that the students from Carmela Carvajal now regularly pass on their donations to hungry students at other occupied schools.

Municipal authorities have repeatedly attempted to retake the school, sending in police to evict the rebel students and get classes back on schedule, but so far the youth have held their ground.

The students and workers of Chile are not intimidated and are carrying their struggle forward. They are an important part of the mass uprisings and occupations which are taking place all around the world. □

EDITORIAL

La Lucha y el Estado

En su libro pionero “El origen de la familia, la propiedad privada y el Estado”, Frederick Engels explica la evolución del Estado de esta manera: “el Estado no es de ningún modo un poder impuesto desde fuera de la sociedad; es más bien un producto de la sociedad cuando llega a un grado de desarrollo determinado; es la confesión de que esa sociedad se ha enredado en una irremediable contradicción consigo misma y está dividida por antagonismos irreconciliables, que es impotente para conjurar. Pero a fin de que estos antagonismos, estas clases con intereses económicos en pugna no se devoren a sí mismas y no consuman a la sociedad en una lucha estéril, se hace necesario un poder situado aparentemente por encima de la sociedad y llamado a amortiguar el choque, a mantenerlo en los límites del “orden”. Y ese poder, nacido de la sociedad, pero que se pone por encima de ella y se divorcia de ella más y más, es el Estado.

El papel del Estado como un aparato represivo que incluye a la policía, las cárceles, los tribunales, los medios de comunicación capitalistas y más debe ser estudiado y comprendido por cada activista y revolucionario/a no sólo en teoría sino en la práctica. A pesar de que Engels escribió este libro hace más de un siglo, en 1884, es hoy más pertinente que nunca.

El estado surgió de la sociedad de clases hace miles de años para proteger la propiedad privada de los explotadores y para prevenir la rebelión organizada de los/as explotados/as para liberarse. La propiedad privada bajo el capitalismo viene en forma de los medios de producción de todo en la sociedad, desde la maquinaria, hasta las fábricas y los edificios de oficinas.

Para los pueblos oprimidos nacionalmente o las personas de color, el Estado, especialmente en la forma de la policía y los tribunales, es una amenaza cotidiana extrema en su naturaleza. Desde el sur del Bronx, N.Y., al centro sur de Los Ángeles, las comunidades negras y latinas enfrentan una ocupación policiaca represiva diariamente.

Sean Bell y Amadou Diallo, un afroamericano y un inmigrante africano respectivamente, estaban desarmados cuando fueron asesinados a tiros por el departamento de policía de Nueva York. Una demanda de acción de clase en el 2008 reveló que la gente negra y latina era detenida y revisada en grandes cantidades dentro de sus barrios por la policía neoyorquina basándose en su nacionalidad. Las cifras son enormemente desproporcionadas a su número real en la población.

Pero esta naturaleza violenta del Estado se está extendiendo más allá de los límites de los sectores más marginados. La crisis económica sin precedentes del capitalismo ahora está creando sufrimiento entre aquellas capas que una vez eran vistas como “clase media” o privilegiada, sobre todo si era blanca. La lucha de Ocupar Wall Street es la expresión más dinámica de la desilusión que muchas/os jóvenes blancas/os y otros sienten con el sistema capitalista.

La policía y Ocupar Wall Street

El continuo rescate multibillonario de Wall Street y los grandes bancos por el Ministerio de Hacienda estadounidense desde 2008 ha motivado esta lucha, ya que muchos/as gente jóvenes se dan cuenta de que no hay empleos ni un futuro para ellos/as. Estos/as jóvenes también han sido inspirados/as por las ocupaciones heroicas en Plaza Tahrir de Egipto, en Wisconsin, en España y en otros países. OWS hoy en día está ganando más y más apoyo en la ciudad de Nueva York, en Estados Unidos y en el mundo.

Esos/as activistas que están participando en la protesta de OWS están siendo educados/as en medio de la lucha sobre el papel del estado. Tienen sus propias experiencias nuevas y las experiencias de otros/as. El 24 de septiembre, activistas de OWS fueron atacados/as físicamente por la policía con gas pimienta después de una marcha improvisada en las calles. Y a pesar de las peticiones de algunos/as activistas para que la policía fuera tolerante, por lo menos 100 personas fueron detenidas. Para muchos/as activistas, fue la primera vez en ser confrontados/as físicamente por el estado. Los actos de brutalidad cometidos por la policía fueron grabados en video.

Esta manifestación sucedió tres días después de la horrorosa ejecución racista de Troy Davis en el estado de Georgia. Toda la evidencia señalaba la inocencia de Davis en el asesinato de un policía blanco, pero los hechos no impidieron su ejecución. Varios/as activistas de OWS habían participado en manifestaciones para suspender la ejecución.

El 2 de octubre, más de 700 activistas de OWS fueron detenidos/as mientras intentaban cruzar el Puente de Brooklyn desde Manhattan. Y una vez más, la petición a la policía para que los/as dejaran ir fue ignorada.

La lucha puede cambiar la consciencia política en cuestión de días o incluso de horas. Como respuesta a la brutalidad y las detenciones por la policía el 24 de septiembre, miles de manifestantes marcharon desde el sitio de OWS a One Police Plaza. Dos de las consignas más populares eran ¡”Recordamos a Sean Bell, policía de NY váyase al infierno”! y ¡”El sistema es racista, linchó a Troy Davis”! El mostrar solidaridad con los/as oprimidos/as fue claramente un paso importante.

Además de la profundización de esta solidaridad, las próximas lecciones importantes son que el estado capitalista está por encima del pueblo, no puede ser reformado, y en última instancia, debe ser destruido y reemplazado por un Estado que represente los intereses de la mayoría de la humanidad sobre la base de la reorganización socialista de la sociedad.

Las palabras de Engels han resistido la prueba de tiempo. □

Impulsado por represión y falta de trabajos Ocupación de Wall Street despierta solidaridad

Por Tony Murphy

El 7 de octubre un grupo de la comunidad haitiana marchó desde Brooklyn cruzando el puente para unirse al Campamento para Ocupar a Wall Street en la Plaza de la Libertad en el centro del distrito financiero de Manhattan. El 5 de octubre alumnos/as de la Universidad de Columbia planearon salir de clases y unirse a una gigante marcha sindical en el mismo sitio. Un grupo de Personas de Color es ahora parte del campamento y se reúne regularmente.

Ocupar a Wall Street (OWS) es ahora oficialmente el centro de protesta de Nueva York y se está extendiendo como un reguero de pólvora a otras ciudades.

La represión policial y las detenciones masivas de manifestantes del movimiento Ocupar a Wall Street han dado vida a la frase “represión engendra resistencia”. También ha aumentado la solidaridad entre Ocupar a Wall Street y los sindicatos, los estudiantes y otros grupos.

El comité de Acercamiento a Sindicatos de OWS, compuesto por unas 50 personas, ha organizado acciones tales como una interrupción el 22 de septiembre de una subasta del famoso Sotheby para apoyar a los/as trabajadores/as de esta casa de subasta de arte que estaban bajo un cierre patronal. El 4 de octubre la Federación Americana de Empleados del Estado, Condado y Municipios, (AFSCME por sus siglas en inglés) Local 372 celebró una reunión en el Ayuntamiento con el apoyo de OWS para protestar por los despidos de más de 700 ayudantes escolares.

La noticia más relevante es que los sindicatos más grandes de la ciudad – AFSCME DC 37, empleados/as de la salud United Health Care Workers East (1199 SEIU), SEIU 32BJ, Federación Unida de Maestros, el sindicato United Auto Workers y la Unión de Trabajadores del Transporte – unieron fuerzas para una gran marcha el 5 de octubre desde el Ayuntamiento hasta la Plaza de la Libertad, sitio de la OWS.

Esto sucedió luego de una gran muestra de solidaridad dada por del sindicato de transporte cuando éste presentó una demanda en contra de la ciudad por hacer que los/as miembros del sindicato condujeran los autobuses de la ciudad para llevar a los/as manifestantes detenidos/as a la cárcel. La demanda fue presentada dos días después de la detención de cerca de 700 personas que participaban en una gran marcha a través del Puente de Brooklyn el 1 de octubre.

Calificando los arrestos como “un flagrante acto de retaliación política”, el presidente del sindicato de Trabajadores del Transporte John Samuelsen dijo: “La Local 100 del TWU apoya a los/as manifestantes en Wall Street y toma como gran ofensa que el alcalde y la policía de Nueva York hayan ordenado a los/as operadores/as a que transportaran a los/as ciudadanos/as que estaban ejerciendo su derecho constitucional para protestar – los/as cuales no debían haber sido arrestados/as en primer lugar”. (Daily News, 2 de octubre).

Incluso antes de los arrestos del Puente de Brooklyn, se produjo una violenta represión policial durante una marcha el 24 de septiembre. Pero eso sólo hizo que más personas se unieran a las actividades de protesta.

Una amplia cobertura por los medios de comunicación de los/as manifestantes siendo ro-

ciados/as con gas pimienta en los ojos durante esa marcha galvanizó la indignación en la marcha del 30 de septiembre que se dirigió al cuartel de la policía. Había pancartas que decían: “Policía de Nueva York: Manos fuera de Ocupar Wall Street”, “Cárcel para los banqueros no para los manifestantes” y “Policía de Nueva York protege a los banqueros y multimillonarios”.

La cobertura de la represión policial incluyó el uso de la Internet por el movimiento para ayudar a identificar a Anthony Bolonia como el oficial que no sólo ha rociado con pimienta a los/as manifestantes, sino que también tiene procesos judiciales pendientes en su contra por un comportamiento similar en las protestas del 2004 contra la Convención Nacional Republicana.

Todas las edades afectadas por el desempleo

No hay duda de que los ataques de la policía han contribuido a fomentar el crecimiento de

Ocupar a Wall Street. Lo que también está detrás de la dinámica del crecimiento del movimiento, sobre todo la difusión de los movimientos para “Ocupar” en otras ciudades, es la devastadora crisis de desempleo.

Además de las ocupaciones en grandes ciudades como Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Filadelfia, Chicago, Minneapolis y Baltimore, hay otras en Memphis, Tennessee, Hilo, Hawaii, y McAllen, Texas. [Nota de WW/MO: a la hora de esta redacción ya hay cerca de 1,000 ciudades con ocupaciones, cifra que aumenta cada día]

Según el Departamento del Trabajo de los EE.UU., más de 2 millones de personas han estado desempleadas durante 99 semanas o más – tiempo en que se suspenden los beneficios por desempleo en los estados con mayores tasas de desempleo.

“Estoy desempleado actualmente, por primera vez en mi vida, a los 55 años de edad”, dijo Albert Sgambati, un manifestante de OWS, quien le dijo a AM de Nueva York que su trabajo como profesor en la fundación para investigación de la Universidad de la Ciudad (City University) se redujo primero de tiempo completo a tiempo parcial y luego a nada en octubre pasado, cuando la fundación perdió sus fondos. (2 de octubre)

Al mismo tiempo, muchos/as estudiantes que participan en este movimiento están recargados/as con decenas de miles de dólares en deuda y sin ninguna perspectiva de trabajo. Otra conclusión del informe del Congreso es que a pesar de que los/as trabajadores/as sin educación universitaria están más propensos/as a perder sus trabajos, los/as trabajadores/as desempleados/as con título universitario, y por ende con más deuda educativa por pagar, tienen las mismas probabilidades de convertirse en el 99 por ciento de la población que sufre, como los/as trabajadores/as desempleados/as con sólo escuela secundaria.

El 2 de octubre el manifestante Robert Camiso sostenía un cartel en la Plaza de la Libertad que decía: “Arrestado ayer, hoy de nuevo aquí”. En el otro lado se leía: “arresten a uno de nosotros y dos más aparecerán”.

Los /as miembros de Ocupar a Wall Street han demostrado una gran determinación en contra del constante acoso policial. A medida que empeora la crisis del desempleo, este movimiento dinámico seguirá creciendo. □



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